

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10 OMB-01 AID-05 SAM-01

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R 280331Z APR 76 ZDK CITING #0656M

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4859

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

DIRNSA WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK TH

AMCONSUL UDORN

UNCLAS BANGKOK 11717

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, MILI, TH

SUBJ: U.S. FORCES IN THAILAND

USIA PASS IEA

1. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER THAWI CHUNLASAP TALKED WITH NEWSMEN  
APRIL 27 ABOUT RAMASUN. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS  
TRANSLATION.

2. BEGIN TEXT

REPORTER: REGARDING THE RADAR STATION IN RAMASUN CAMP,  
GENERAL THAWIT SENIWONG EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL VIEW YESTERDAY  
THAT HE DOES NOT WISH IT TO BE WITHDRAWN, BUT THE FORMER  
GOVERNMENT REACHED A DECISION FOR IT TO BE PULLED OUT WITHIN  
FORU MONTHS...

THAWI: FROM A MILITARY ANGLE, WE ARE OF THE VIEW THAT  
TO HAVE SUCH COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT IS USEFUL FOR US ALSO.  
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FROM A POLITICAL ANGLE, IT IS SAID THAT WE DON'T WANT SUCH EQUIPMENT BECAUSE THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN SERVICEMEN VIOLATES OUR SOVEREIGNTY. THAT IS THE VIEW OF POLITICIANS. ONE OF THE TWO VIEWS MUST BE RIGHT. THERE HAVE BEEN VARIOUS SITUATIONS AND VARIOUS DIFFERENT ISSUES CONTINUOUSLY IN THE PAST. FOR EXAMPLE, AT ONE TIME WE LOOKED AT AND CONDEMNED EVERYTHING AS BEING RED. BUT NOW, THE RED COLOR HAS BEEN GRADUALLY FADING AWAY TO SOME EXTENT. THERE ARE NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES ALREADY. THE POLITICAL VIEW IS CORRECT ALSO. FROM A TECHNICAL ANGLE, SHOULD WE HAVE SUCH EQUIPMENT, IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THAILAND. I MEAN THAT OUR MILITARY WOULD BE ABLE TO USE IT ALSO. IT IS EQUIPMENT TO GIVE WARNING, IT IS A RADAR WARNING SYSTEM. IT IS NOT A WEAPON THAT COULD BE USED TO ATTACK ANYBODY.

REPORTER: COULDN'T IT BE REGARDED FROM ANOTHER ANGLE AS BEING AN ESPIONAGE UNIT?

THAWI: IF REGARDED FROM AN UNFAVORABLE POINT OF VIEW, THEN IT IS ESPIONAGE BECAUSE IT IS EQUIPMENT TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON MOVEMENTS OF THE OTHER SIDE, TO SEE IN WHAT DIRECTION ITS MOVEMENTS ARE HEADED.

REPORTER: DOESN'T SUCH EQUIPMENT AND ITS OPERATION CONFLICT WITH OUR FOREIGN POLICY?

THAWI: IT IS ALSO OUR POLICY TO HAVE OUR RADAR STATIONS FOR USE. WE MUST KEEP WATCH ON THE SKIES IN ORDER TO SEE AND KNOW WHETHER ANYTHING IS COMING FROM ANY AND ALL DIRECTIONS.

REPORTER: WILL CONSULTATIONS BE HELD AGAIN?

THAWI: NOT YET. NO CONSULTATIONS HAVE BEEN HELD ON THIS SUBJECT YET.

REPORTER: BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS WERE HELD AND COLLAPSED, THE FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT THEY WERE ONLY FOR RAMASUN CAMP, THAT THEY DID NOT INCLUDE THE UNCLASSIFIED

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RADAR STATION ON DOI INTHANON.

THAWI: THE RADAR STATION ON DOI INTHANON BELONGS TO US.

REPORTER: HE SAID THAT THAILAND HAD NOT BENEFITTED AT ALL FROM RAMASUN CAMP, THAT ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED THERE WAS SENT TO NEW YORK, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. THEREFORE,

RAMASUN CAMP WAS OF NO USE AT ALL FOR US. WILL THERE BE ANY CHANGE...

THAWI: WE RECIEVED VAROUS REPORTS.

REPORTER: FROM HERE?

THAWI: YES. WHEN I WAS IN A POSITION CONCERNING THE MILITARY, I RECEIVED VAROUS REPORTS, BUT SOME OF THEM WERE STRATEGIC REPORTS WHICH COULD NOT BE DISCLOSED.

REPORTER: WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL VIEW? SHOULD THE U.S. BE WILLING TO HOLD NEW NEGOTIATIONS, AND SHOULD IT BE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE SEVEN-POINT PROPOSAL OF THE FORMER GOVERNMENT, OUGHT WE TO RECONSIDER THE MATTER?

THAWI: IF AMERICAN SERVICEMEN IN CHARGE OF OPERATION OF THAT UNIT DO NOT TOTAL AS MANY AS 4,500 MEN AND FOR WHOM DIPLOMATIC RIGHTS ARE REQUESTED... IN REALITY I DON'T BELIEVE THAT DIPLOMATIC RIGHTS ARE REQUESTED FOR AS MAY AS 4, 500 MEN. THEY MIGHT BE REQUESTED FOR ONLY 100 OR 200 MEN WHO ARE IN CHARGE OF SUPERVISION AND OPERATION OF EQUIPMENT. SUPPOSE THOSE 200 MEN SHOULD BECOME INVOLVED IN SOME INCIDENT OUTSIDE THE CAMP, AND WHOULD THEY BE ARRESTED AND DETAINED IN CUSTODY BY THE POLICE, WE WOULD NOT KNOW WHO THEY ARE. FROM THAT ANGLE, WE SHOULD FEEL SOME SYMPATHY, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY ARE PERSONS WHO ARE IN CHARGE OF OPERATION OF EQUIPMENT WHICH IS A TOP SECRET. I VERY MUCH SUSPECT THAT THEY DO NOT TOTAL AS MANY AS 4,500 MEN.

REPORTER: DO YOU CONSIDER THAT 4,500 MEN ARE FAR TOO MANY PERSON FOR ONE CAMP?

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THAWI: I HAVEN'T STUDIED DETAILS YET. BUT I BELIEVE THAT THEY MUST HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN BY THIS TIME.

REPORTER: IT IS SAID THAT THEY ARE BEING WITHDRAWN BY GROUPS.

THAWI: MOST OF THEIR EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN REMOVED AND TAKEN AWAY ALREADY. END TEXT  
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

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